

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 12 has been extensively amended so as to point out with specificity the details of the structure of the present invention which are patentable over the cited and applied prior art references. Independent claim 12, as amended, now sets forth the circumferential surface of the pin (7) which is partially surrounded by the arcuate inner surface (9) of the pin holder (8). This structure is neither shown nor disclosed in the cited and applied prior art documents.

The Schoeller '310 document, namely DE 3811310, does not disclose a pin holder which partially surrounds the pin in the manner claimed in amended independent claim 12. The further cited Schoeller '756 document, namely U.S. 5,373,756, does not disclose the claimed sidewalls. In addition, the arrangement of Schoeller would not allow for the pin holder to be placed over the circumferential surface of the pin as the pin holder of Schoeller surrounds more than half of the circumferential pin and thus must be slid over the pin from an end thereof. There is no suggestion in either of the Schoeller documents, taken alone or in combination, to suggest the details of the pin and pin holder as now claimed in independent claim 12.

In addition to the foregoing, it is submitted that dependent claims 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21 contain patentable merit in their own right. The details of the locking device as claimed and how the locking device cooperates within the cutout of the latches is not at all disclosed by the prior art.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art

of record and the early issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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